

ACTIVE SENIOR HITS THE ROAD TRAVELS BLOOMINGTON STREET BY STREET

AGE IS NO BARRIER TO EILEEN HAMILTON who likes a challenge. Inspired by Francine Corcoran, the 55-year-old who recently walked all of Minneapolis’ streets, Hamilton, 81, thought, “I’ll try that for Bloomington.”

Her trek began on Bloomington’s east side last March. Keeping track of her progress with a black marker on a city map, Hamilton chose random paths and covered four to five miles per day. In just three months, she ended on the city’s

west side, walking a total of 412.5 miles that included all city and county streets. Hamilton said what she enjoyed most about traveling the city street by street was the thrill of discovering what was around the next block.

“There are many great parks, nice playgrounds, beautiful streets and well-maintained homes,” she said. “I feel like I know Bloomington so much better.”

Hamilton clocks an impressive 15-minute mile and walks two to three miles as part of her daily routine. She said she walks because she feels so good afterward.

“I don’t think about my age because I don’t feel it,” she said. “Getting out and moving also keeps a person’s mind active.”



Eileen Hamilton walked 412.5 miles of Bloomington streets, the equivalent of walking to Chicago.

Hamilton, who gave up rollerblading at age 80, said her advice for people who say “I wish I could do that” is to just get out there and do it. Hamilton and husband Harold (who’s 82 and long-blade skates twice a week) raised six children and have been Bloomington residents since 1952.

Do you have an interesting story about a Bloomington resident? Let us know. Call Diann Kirby at 952-563-8818 or e-mail dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BUILDS COMMUNITY DONATIONS TO FOOD SHELF SET RECORD

PARTICIPATION IN THE 22ND ANNUAL National Night Out crime, drug and violence prevention program reached an all-time high with 336 registered neighborhood parties. During the August event, a record 15,846 pounds of food and nearly \$700 were collected for Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP).

“We had a phenomenal response to the request for food shelf donations at National Night Out,” said Karin Meier, VEAP’s Director of Development. “It was not only the quantity of the donations that excited us, but the quality was excellent, too.”

The National Night Out event demonstrates what can be accomplished through “neighbors helping neighbors,” according to Bloomington Police Chief John Laux.

“Giving to the food shelf is a way to help those less fortunate,” Laux said. “I am really pleased that we are able to take a very successful event to build neighborhood and community connections, and extend that to VEAP.”

For more information on National Night Out, call 952-563-8808. To contact VEAP, call 952-888-9616.



Residents drop off food donations collected during National Night Out.

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT GEARS UP FOR FAMILY FUN THIS FALL

FALL FUN AWAITS THE whole family at Hyland Lake Park Reserve at 8737 E. Bush Lake Road. For reservations or more information call 763-559-6700, unless otherwise noted.

CHAIR LIFT RIDES

Experience a spectacular view of the fall colors and nature at sunset as you ride a chair lift **Friday, October 7, 5 - 9 p.m.** and **Saturday, October 8, 4 - 9 p.m.** at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area. Warm up by a campfire, look through a telescope, meet a live raptor and enjoy a walk down an illuminated trail. Cost is \$5, ages 3 and older.



SKI LESSONS

Extensive lesson programs at Hyland’s Ski and Snowboard School for all ages and abilities are taught by some of the Midwest’s finest ski and snowboard instructors. Pre-registration begins **Saturday, October 22.** For a complete schedule, visit www.hylandski.com.

SKI SWAP

If you need ski or snowboard equipment, or want to get rid of what you already have, don’t miss the annual Ski Swap, **Friday - Saturday, October 14 - 16** at Hyland Chalet. For more information, call 952-930-9422 or visit www.teamgilboa.com.

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES

Celebrate Halloween, **Saturday, October 29, 5 - 9 p.m.** Trick-or-treat on a not-so-scary animal puppet trail or creep along a haunted trail for a scary good time. Meet live animals, play games, enjoy storytelling, and warmup by a campfire. Come in costume and bring a bag for goodies. For reservations, call 763-559-6700. Cost is \$8, ages 3 and older.



Bloomington SWAT team on patrol in New Orleans.

HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY EFFORTS BLOOMINGTON RESPONDS

A COALITION OF NEARLY 90 LAW enforcement officers from the metropolitan area left on September 13 for a two-week deployment to New Orleans to assist in the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Bloomington joined Minneapolis, St. Paul and Ramsey County in response to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) request for state help.

Bloomington sent 21 current and recently retired SWAT team members who have the tactical training and equipment to handle any situation. Not wanting to add to the problem in New Orleans, the team was completely self-sufficient, providing their own food, water and housing.

Commander Dave Olmstead, who headed the Bloomington team, said the Minnesota contingent was on standby round-the-clock to assist the New Orleans SWAT team. Working conditions were challenging as they battled limited radio communication and heat indexes of 105 degrees.

“Every day it was an adventure as we patrolled the different areas of New Orleans,” Olmstead said. “In the city’s Ninth District, where one levy was breached, there was incredible devastation. It was as if a bomb went off and everything was covered in mud.”

With 21 officers in New Orleans, the rest of Bloomington’s Police force filled in with overtime so that the level of service provided to residents was maintained.

“It’s wonderful that we could help out for two weeks, but we could not sustain that level for the long term,” said Bloomington Police Chief John Laux. “The good news is that the City will be completely reimbursed by FEMA for all expenses related to the trip, including overtime for officers covering Bloomington shifts.”

Laux said he was touched by his officers’ quick and overwhelming response to help out Americans in need.

“My law enforcement career has spanned five decades and I have never been prouder of any organization,” Laux said. “These officers responded so quickly and readily, stepping forward and saying, ‘If they need us, we will go.’”



Bloomington SWAT team members.